The Angel resident

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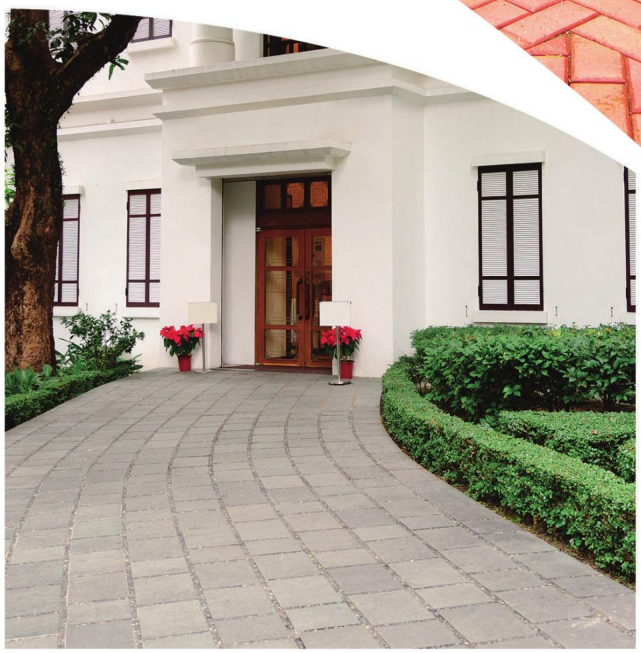

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Welcome to

The Angel resident

Catch Camden Passage at the right time and there's no place like it

This month's cover:
Photographer: Charlie Clift
Stylist: Lauren Miller
Hair & Make up: Christelle Pellecuer
Model: Liana from Profile
Clothes: White dress - Alice by Alice Temperley at Harrods. Shoes - stylist own. Cuff - Celliana. Burgundy Bag - Okika

It's astonishing to think this now, but the first time I ever visited Angel I was oblivious to Camden Passage. This was around 13 years ago, a time when antiques still reigned supreme there, so for me personally at the time it held no sway. How times change.

I could quite easily spend an entire morning gazing into the shop windows down this wonderful street. Catch it at the right time of the year – in middle of summer, lights dimmed for Christmas, the market in full flow – and there truly isn't a place like that. Proving the point, I did indeed spend an entire morning on Camden Passage, but instead of gazing into shop windows, I actually went inside and met up with ten very inspiring women who have created fabulous businesses.

Within the first few months of starting to work in Islington, I bumped into award-winning singer/songwriter Dido. Literally – it was on the corner of Liverpool Road and Theberton Street. She was pretty unassuming and, if it wasn't for the fact that at the time I was pretty hooked on the band Faithless (Dido has written and sang songs for them), I wouldn't have even noticed her. That, it seems, is just how she likes it. In an exclusive interview with The Angel resident, she explains why she's happy to be out of the spotlight and what effect becoming a mum has had on her career.

Talking of children, two men taking centre stage this issue are big family people and explain how that's influenced their careers in the food industry. Henry Dimbleby is co-founder of the incredibly successful Leon Restaurant chain and, this month, has helped launch the Cook 5 initiative to get our kids cooking. Then there is Ben Warner, the man behind the also incredibly successful benugo chain. Happily settled with his family in Islington, Ben tells us about his love for the area and what benugo is really aiming to achieve.

Finally, a quick mention of that other Angel gem: Rosie Millard. Our wonderful columnist has been keeping us hugely entertained and this month, even provoked debate on our social networking sites regarding foxes, and if you love them or loathe them. Find out how you can get involved in local debates by visiting us on Twitter (@angelmag) and Facebook (facebook.com/TheAngelResident). See you there!

Mark Kebble
Editor

This month I have…

obviously spent a lot of time on Camden Passage! I'd love to say somewhere else also held my sway too, but as my stay at St Martin's Lane showed me, there's nowhere quite like Angel.

The heart of N1

This month's contributors

Henry Dimbleby started his career as a commis chef with the Michelin-starred chef Bruno Loubet, before meeting John Vincent and joining forces with him to revolutionise the restaurant industry with Leon.

Founder of award-winning group benugo, **Ben Warner** has made a remarkable impact on turning around dining in cultural and public spaces, and his company now spans over 50 superb restaurants.

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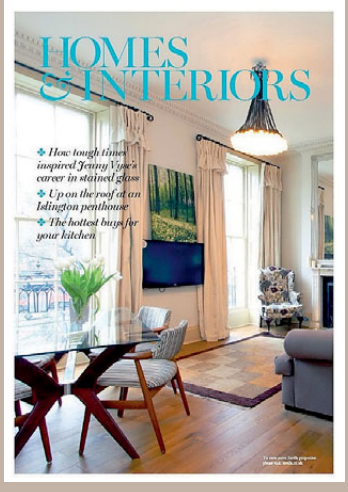

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Jake Perkins looks back on growing up in North London

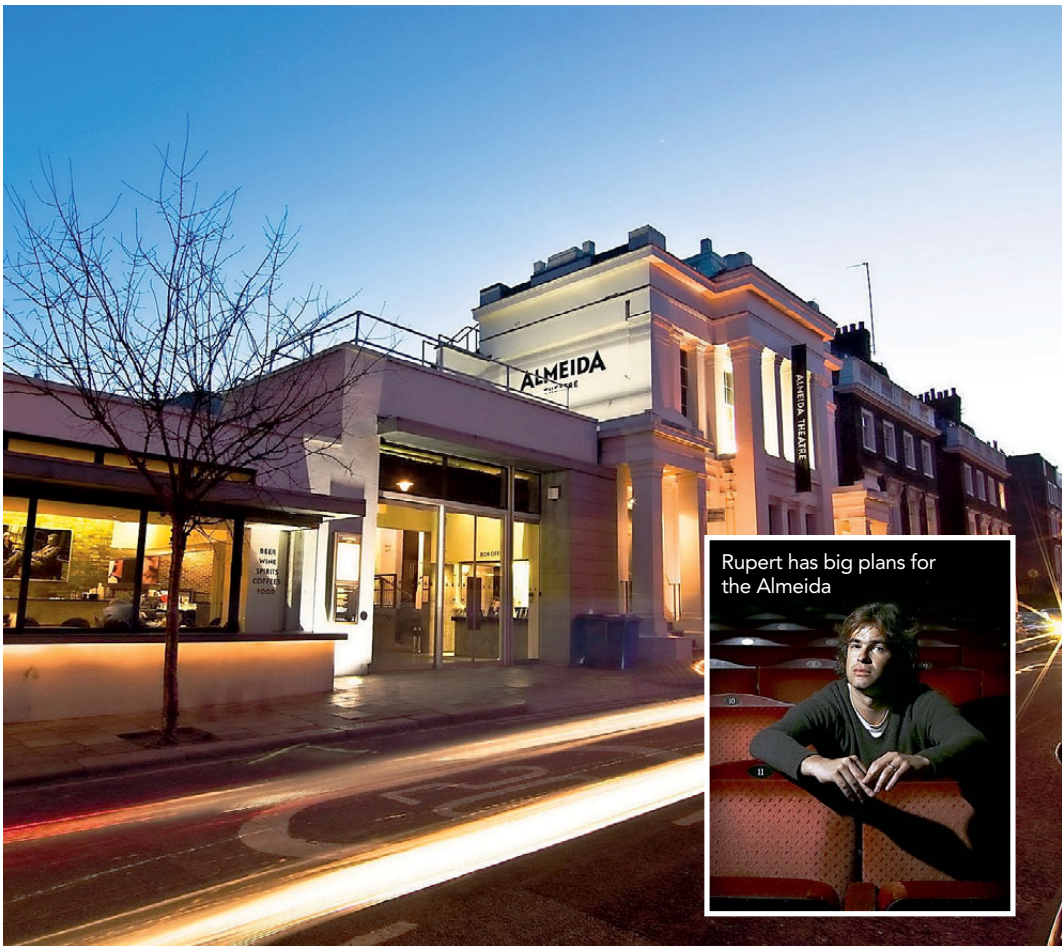
Angel life

There's a new Artistic Director in town and the great and the good of comedy come together

The Goold standard

Almeida Theatre has announced that Rupert Goold will become their new Artistic Director from August 2013. He will succeed Michael Attenborough, who in October last year announced that after 11 years as Artistic Director he was stepping down in order to concentrate on his directing.

'After eight wonderful years at Headlong I'm thrilled to be joining the Almeida,' Rupert says. 'With our collaborations on Chimerica and American Psycho this year it feels the perfect timing. I look forward to welcoming the best artists from here and abroad to make work in this magical theatre and building on its international reputation for theatre of risk and vision.' Rupert's association with the theatre began in 2008 when he directed Stephen Adly Guirgis' The Last Days of Judas Iscariot. The Angel resident is intrigued to know what he will do with Bret Easton Ellis' American Psycho, due to open in December.



Rupert has big plans for the Almeida

EDITOR'S PICK OF THE MONTH

Angel's finest buys

LOCAL LUXE

This stunning shoe is part of the new Spice London Summer '13 Collection. Designed by Chie Mihara it is one of the many irresistible styles on offer here.

✤ £275, 309 Upper Street N1 2TU; 020 7704 0043; spiceshu.co.uk

We love these gorgeous aluminium chess sculptures from BoConcept, the ultimate home accessory for someone who wants to look extra intellectual.

✤ From £99, available at boconcept.co.uk

Fashion Targets Breast Cancer launches their new collection on 22 April, and we love this Laura Ashley Silk-Mix Fit & Flare Dress, with 30% going towards charity.

✤ £95, available at fashiontargetsbreastcancer.org.uk

A place to experiment

LimeWharf, a new canalside gallery and cultural laboratory, is opening its doors this month. Located in the heart of the creative quarter on Vyner Street, this innovative and experimental centre will welcome both artists and scientists to collaborate in residencies, think-tank areas and stimulating exhibitions. Just when we thought the cultural scene couldn't get any better.

Smell the fear

National Garlic Day falls on 19 April this year. The psychological term for fear of garlic is alliumphobia, as vampires know only too well

The full service

St Pancras Renaissance Hotel – featured in such glowing terms in this magazine two issues ago – has announced the launch of its new Eurostar VIP transfer service. As the only hotel in London with authorized security clearance, it is a major coup for the property to be able to provide guests with such an exceptional level of service, whilst also showcasing the strength of the enduring relationship between the hotel and Eurostar. We may just have to visit again now…

CELEB SPOT

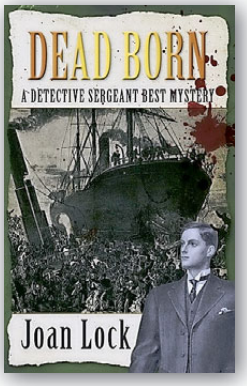
Take Shelter

The who's who of the comedy world came together in February for a very special gig in aid of Shelter, the housing and homelessness charity whose London office is based on Old Street. The likes of Jimmy Carr, Tim Minchin and Alistair McGowan put on a cracking show, all presided over by host, radio DJ Christian O'Connell, which ended up raising more than £100,000 for the charity.

BOOK OF THE MONTH

Dead Born, Joan Lock, out now £8.99 (paperback)

The second title in the Detective Sergeant Best mystery series, local author Joan Lock takes us back to a bygone time when Upper Street wasn't all about new restaurants and shops springing up. When the bodies of a number of babies are found scattered around Islington, Detective Sergeant Best is sent undercover to lodge next door to a suspected baby farm. He shadows an alleged 'child dropper' onto a Thames pleasure steamer and finds himself caught up in Britain's worst civilian tragedy – the 1878 sinking of the Princess Alice – an horrific experience that will haunt Best forever.



A retired policewoman, Joan Lock's attention to detail is fantastic and, reading chapters whilst sipping on a cappuccino in Coffeeworks, her writing really creates a vivid impression of life in Islington in the 19th century that we can barely imagine in the hustle and bustle of the modern day world. This is a thrilling ride that takes you inside Victorian London and features a plot that will keep you guessing right until the very end. Engrossing stuff.

✤ Buy it at Waterstones Islington, 11 Islington Green N1 2XH; 0843 290 8411; waterstones.com

Her writing creates a vivid impression of life in 19th century Islington

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Ottolenghi
@ottolenghi
On way to Broadcasting House for BH newspaper review, Radio4. About to meet Lynn Barber, a big wow!

Henry Conway
@HenryConway
Mmmm. Fun fun birthday time with @ JuliaBoccanera - my favourite North London Lovely (#NLL) - whoop whoop! **#hotstuff**

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Rosie Millard

How a foxy encounter leads to our columnist facing up to a few home truths

My month

✤ Lunch at the Almeida with the clever and very talented Islingtonian Virginia White, whose bespoke furniture, an elegant combination of Georgian and Greek, is now decorating the showrooms at Smythson. She is the Next Big Thing (virginiawhite.co.uk).

✤ Got a Health Check, plus malaria tablets at Boots on the Angel before going on safari to Africa. GP surgeries, who needs them?

✤ Swapped our house via lovehomeswap.com. Hundreds of people with lovely houses in all sorts of sexy places across the globe are longing to give Islington a whirl. We traded in our rather messy abode for a weekend at a chateau in Bordeaux, with staff and food all thrown in.

✤ Our garden has died. So Mr Millard hired a giant machine which he pulled up and down the lawn, aerating it. Like a sort of vast hole-puncher. From where did he get this wonder? How can you even ask. The Cally, of course.

Yes, I like the foxes in Islington. Ran past one the other day during a sporty circumnavigation of Highbury Fields. It was strutting around in front of the swimming pool, brush swaying in the breeze. A wild animal, how exciting. Live and let live is my maxim, even if your way of life is jumping in and out of bins on Highbury Fields. But then imagine one getting into your house. Like a bird, or a squirrel, a terrifying alteration of boundaries. Then we hear about a fox actually dragging an infant out of its cot.

All these things are in my head as I jump into my dawn cab to Sky News. The cab pulls up at 5.20am. I set my alarm for 5.20am, so the cab must wait outside in the square while I pull on a decorous outfit suitable for the viewers of the Sky breakfast show, and my fellow newspaper reviewer James Whale, who is delicious and hilarious in equal degrees. Around ten minutes later, I get into the car.

'How many did you see this morning?' I say to the driver. 'Four,' he replies. Some mornings, it's five or even six. Foxes, we are talking.

They all congregate around 5.15 at the corner of my square. One morning, we find out why.

The driver sees something different. A woman appears, feeding the foxes. She walks around the square, wearing rubber gloves, throwing out food. The foxes trot alongside her, eating the scraps. A little dog bounds along beside her, barking furiously. You can almost hear my sleepy neighbours cursing from their duvets as they are woken up in turn.

One morning, I actually meet her, coming round the corner with her little dog.

'Are you feeding the foxes?' I say, idiotically, but it's an opener.

'Yes. Known them since they were cubs,' she says, Marigolds at the ready, diving into her plastic bag for the food.

'Do you realise they are vermin?' I say.

Who knew the humble fox could lead to so many questions

Who has a better claim to the Islington crown; the born and bred local, or the arriviste who has gentrified the place and now behaves as if they own it?

'They are lovely creatures,' she counters. 'Someone's got to feed them.' She tosses out a chunk. A giant fox runs up, eats it, backs off.

Then I say something truly shameful.

'You don't even live in this square, do you?'

She gives me a steady look.

'I've been feeding these foxes for ten years. How long have YOU lived here, then?'

Oh, no. This conversation is heading into unchartable waters. Who has a better claim to the Islington crown; the born and bred local, or the arriviste who has gentrified the place and now behaves as if they own it? My position is untenable, ridiculous. More to the point, one of the reasons I love the Islington squares is because they are absolutely not those gated and locked versions you find in Kensington and Chelsea, their flowers and trees accessible only by the lucky holders of the park keys, a bit like the garden in Oscar Wilde's The Selfish Giant. Whereas Islington's squares are available to everyone and anyone.

'No, you're right. Sorry,' I say, and get into my cab.

✤ Agree with Rosie? Share your thoughts on this column at twitter.com/angelmag

Disappearing angel

She boasts two of the biggest selling albums of all time, so how will Islington resident Dido follow up that success? Stephen Milton finds a very intriguing answer

Dido's new album is titled the Girl That Got Away. It seems a fitting name. Rewind back to 1999 – her first album No Angel exploded onto the scene, shifting a staggering 21 million copies. Like Norah Jones's Come Away With Me or Amy Winehouse's Back To Black, it was difficult to see how such a defining effort wouldn't absorb the singer permanently into our consciousness for some time to come. Singles Here With Me and Thank You were instant chart-toppers. Out of nowhere came this astonishing overnight sensation.

And No Angel was no 'one hit wonder'. Dido followed up her phenomenal debut with Life for Rent two years later, and while not quite as commercially successful as its predecessor, it expanded her musical versatility.

But unlike the Gagas and Beyonces of this world, the North Londoner was never interested in the fame, the adulation. Each and every interview, of which there are few, portrayed a shy individual, incredibly grounded, almost unaware of her gargantuan success.

The music industry had big plans: marketing, PR, remixes, new material. They knew this attractive young blonde was a money maker. But it wasn't for Dido, who instead turned her back on the fame and returned to normal life. 'The girl that got away,' it would seem. Is this title then intentionally reflective of her semi-reclusive tendency to shy away from celebrity?

'I don't know if I'm that calculating,' she tells me. 'I write songs, I put them out there, and I guess I keep myself to myself. I love having a pretty normal life. At the end of the day, I don't want to feel like I live in a bubble or am overprotected... I don't want that.

'And I think, thankfully, I've been able to strike a balance of having a pretty normal life with all my old friends – the same life I've always had. I can write songs, put them out there, then disappear. I guess you could read into the title in that way, yes. But I don't like to think of the music industry as something that was trying to take me. I'm very grateful for the opportunities that I've been afforded though; I've been lucky in my time.'

Winning Best Female Solo Artist at the BRITs in 2002

Thankfully, I've been able to strike a balance of having a normal life with all my old friends. I can write songs, then disappear

✤ There's only N1

On coming home:
'Islington was a very important base earlier in my life and remains pivotal to who I am. I moved to Fulham after Life for Rent, but it just didn't feel quite right. It felt like a homecoming to move back to North London.'

On supporting Arsenal:
'I first went as a child, back to those great Highbury days, and it becomes a part of you. So, of course, I couldn't stray too far; it's in my blood to stay nearby.'

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Much has changed for the singer, real name Florian Cloud de Bounevialle Armstrong. From childhood, she was exposed to the arts, suggesting her career was always on the cards. Her mother is a poet, her father an Irish publisher and former managing director of Sidgwick & Jackson, and her older brother Rollo (real name Rowland Constantine O'Malley Armstrong) is one part of the relentless machine that is dance band Faithless (more on that over the page). Although her 'real' name is one to die for, she makes a point of saying that Dido is not a stage name or nickname.

Today she's married to the writer Rohan Gavin and they welcomed their son, Stanley, into the world in summer 2011, although the press didn't find out until the following Christmas. Motherhood has been a lovely challenge for the 41-year-old who spent years living in a flat on Upper Street, even after the success of No Angel, before moving to a bigger North London pad with Gavin a few years ago.

Despite her desire to stay away from the spotlight, No Angel follow up Life for Rent, released in 2003, sold over 150,000 copies on the first day alone in the UK. Four singles from the album – White Flag, Life for Rent, Don't Leave Home and Sand in My Shoes – were all major chart hits, and a sell out world tour followed in 2004. A symbol of how her stock had risen came in the form of the Live 8 concerts of July 2005, when she was invited to take part in the concert in London that was watched by over 3 billion people.

A lot of what I write about are the things that are a bit complicated. That's what, to me, makes something worth writing about

The Girl That Got Away, which features production from AR Rahman, Sister Bliss and Brian Eno, signals a move away from her trip hop beginnings, creating a mellower, folky sound. Also, perhaps oddly given the new addition to her family, Dido doesn't go all gooey on the album, leaving mentions of her son off the tracklist.

Wasn't she tempted to write about babies, husbands and nappies? 'No, not really, not yet,' she answers. 'A lot of what I write about are the things that are a little bit complicated, you know. When something inspires me to write a song it's because there's actually a juxtaposition going on. And that's what, to me, makes something worth writing about.'

So what has been the biggest challenge for the new mum? 'Sleep, definitely!' she exclaims. 'We haven't slept very much. But it's actually amazing how little sleep you can survive on. At first you think: "Oh my God, I'm just not sleeping and how am I going…". But it soon →

Dido is yet another fan of Camden Passage

Performing at Live 8 with Youssou N'Dour

I'm not thinking too far ahead. I do want to do some live shows because they are really fun. I am just going to go with the flow

becomes normal,' she smiles.

Considering her breakout single Thank You was sampled on Eminem's smash hit Stan, which in itself was about a kidnapping psychopath, wasn't Stanley an odd choice of name for her son? 'Funnily enough I didn't really think anyone would really notice. I guess I didn't think it through,' she chuckles. 'I just love the name Stanley. And in my head he was always going to be called Stanley. And then it was like, "Oh well. I don't care". To me, the record was a great period of my life as well, so irrespective of the song's undertones, it's a fun association.'

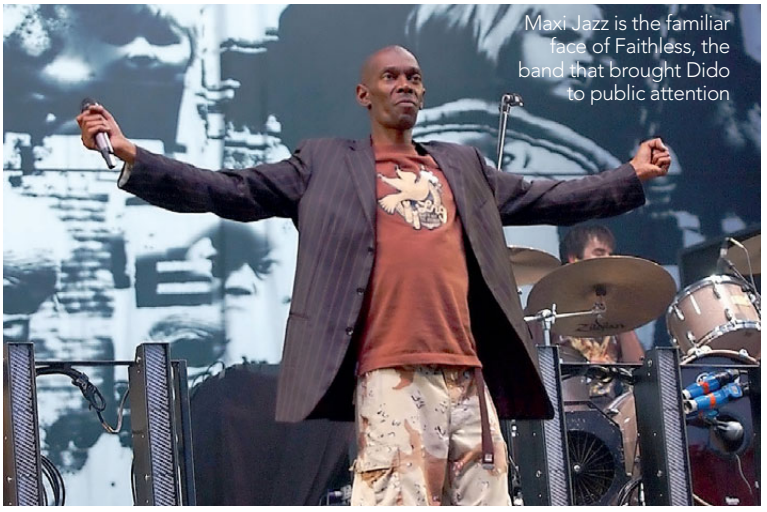
While her first two albums were huge successes, her last effort, Safe Trip Home, didn't move to the same heights, despite being nominated for a Grammy Award. Was this an intentional float under the radar? 'I don't think you really intend anything. You just write your songs and produce them and you want people to hear them. I don't think I'd ever intend to be more under the radar.'

Industry experts cited a lack of promotion, marketing and touring for the modest success of her last album. Will Dido go on the road for the Girl That Got Away? 'Who knows? I think we'll just go along with it. I'm not thinking too far ahead. I do want to do some live shows, because they are really fun. We did some acoustic stuff a couple of weeks ago, which was really enjoyable. I'm just going to go with the flow…'

✤ Girl That Got Away is out now

✤ Keeping it in the family

Dido says she shared a love of Arsenal FC with her brother, Rollo, and it was alongside him that she first came to prominence. Insomnia was the huge hit that propelled Faithless into the big time, and on the band's debut album Reverence, Dido co-wrote and provided vocals for the likes of Flowerstand Man and Hem of His Garment.



Maxi Jazz is the familiar face of Faithless, the band that brought Dido to public attention

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javari.co.uk

LOCAL LUXE

Style NEWS

French Connection
Boxy Block Bag, £65.
N1 Centre, 2 Parkfield Street, N1 0PS, frenchconnection.com

French fancy

We love Louche's trinket charm collection, with its Parisian motifs and springtime floral touches. This Eiffel Tower Ring is £8 at JOY.

21-22 Upper Street N1 0PQ, 020 7354 4753, joythestore.com

Vero Moda
Yanni Blazer by Vero Moda, £40.
Oliver Bonas, 147-148 Upper Street N1 1RA; 020 7424 5305; oliverbonas.com

MaxMara
Weekend Gesti Silk Lace Dress by MaxMara, £212.
johnlewis.com

MALE ORDER

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financialstyle.com

THREE'S A TREND

Make it monochrome

Monochrome is one of the biggest trends this spring mixing bold, contrasting black and white colours to give you instant elegance. Hugely versatile and flattering for all body shapes, experiment with stripes, 'opposite' colours for skirts and tops or accessorise the look with a stylish handbag or pair of heels.

FASHION

71% of readers are brand loyal to their clothes

Source: Archant Readership Focus Groups (2012) ESCP 2011Street Survey TGI

www.theresident.co.uk

THREE'S A TREND
Beautiful in blue

Blue eye palettes are a huge trend this spring, from electric turquoises and royal blues to jades and light pastels. Line eyes with **Estee Lauder's velvety smooth Pure Colour Intense Kajal Eyeliner Duo in Black/Blue, £18** (1) (available from Boots, 35-37 Islington High Street N1 9LH) using blue to highlight and black for bold definition. To make an impact, sweep on **Something Blue Colour Crush eyeshadow, £7** (2) (The Body Shop, 7 Upper Street N1 0PQ) or blend this **Mad Mad World Eyeshadow Duo in Parakeet Green / Vivid Cyan, £25** (3) (available at narscosmetics.co.uk) with a crease-resistant formula.

(1)

Luscious Lanolips

Natural moisturising product, Lanolips Lovely Lanolin Herbal Body Oil, 60ml £9.95, is now available in Boots. Containing pine and Eucalyptus oils, it contains antiseptic, anti-bacterial and anti-inflammatory properties. Apply to towel dried skin and massage to lock-in moisture – used twice daily for 12 weeks, you will find skin smoother in tone and appearance.

✤ 35-37 Islington High Street N1 9LH; 020 7837 3430; boots.com

(3)

(2)

Root revival

Say goodbye to greys thanks to the new Two Minute Root Touch-Up from Alterna, 30ml £24.95, available in four colours: blonde, light brown, dark brown and black. The rich, mineral-based gel formula allows easy application and seamlessly blends with hair colour for a instant vibrant boost between salon visits.

✤ alternahaircare.com

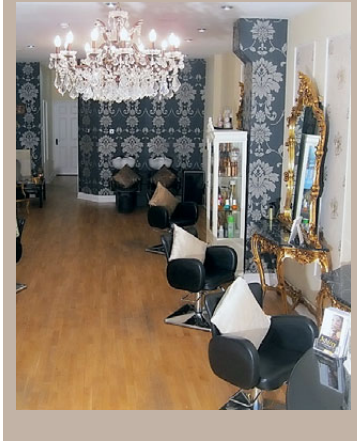
Beauty NEWS

LOCAL LUXE

MALE ORDER

Tom Ford for Men Eau de Toilette Spray, 50ml £45, or 100ml £60, is the first fragrance from the legendary fashion designer. Sensual and luxurious, it blends Mediterranean Hesperidic notes with Lemon Leaf Oil, Italian Bergamot, Mandarin Zest, Fresh Basil, Violet and Ginger.

✤ Available from johnlewis.com



Salon of the month
3thirty Hair & Beauty

Mixing a stylish, hip interior with five star service, 3thirty has won a legion of fans for its indulgent beauty treatments and hairstyling services which cater for hair types including European, Afro and Asian. We love the Brazilian Blow-dry Treatment with X-Tenso Moisturist which tames curls and unruly hair for a long-lasting smooth finish.

✤ 330 Old Street, EC1V 9DR; 020 7033 1882; 3thirty.co.uk

Edited by **Kat Hopps**

We mean business

Meeting a top ten like no other, Mark Kebble ventures down Camden Passage to talk to the ladies leading the entrepreneurial way

Main photo by Charlie Clift

The Angel Resident's photographer is having a bit of a nightmare. Attempting to get a group of ladies into position for an action shot, he is encountering a problem of the chatty kind. These are the ladies who have helped make Camden Passage such a destination for locals and tourists alike. From the new (Etc. has only been open a month) to the established (Annie Moss was already trading on Camden Passage before the electro-tinged 1980s had even come around), The Angel Resident salutes ten very special women in business…

Sadie's career plan was always to open her own florist

Because I am young I felt that I could afford to take the plunge

SADIE ROSE, SADIE ROSE FLORIST

How long have you had your flower shop on Camden Passage for now?
Eight months. I live locally and have done for my whole life – I am 22 now. I have always loved Camden Passage and the Islington area in general.

Why did you want to run your own shop?
It's just something I always wanted to do. I left school and went straight into floristry. It was something I was always working towards since the age of 16.

Were you nervous about opening in a recession?
Very nervous! But because I am young I felt that I could afford to take the plunge. I didn't want to do it later when I may have other responsibilities. If it works, it works – if it doesn't, it doesn't, but I will always be a florist.

So how have things gone these past eight months?
Really well. I secured the contract for the Emirates Stadium. On match day I supply all the flowers: for the directors, the Diamond Suite, private boxes and the reception area. I don't actually follow football, but my boyfriend was chuffed!

Have you been made to feel very welcome here?
I have, yes. It's a really nice community in Camden Passage. People came in and said hello when I first opened, and I do feel we all stick together here.

Where are your favourite local haunts?
The Steam Passage is lovely, I never realised how nice it was there to be honest. Upper Street in general, there are so many places to eat down there.

✤ 4 Charlton Place N1 8AJ; 020 3632 7874; sadie-rose.co.uk

Annie's Vintage stocks a whole host of quirky delights

Annie Moss has made Camden Passage home for over three decades

ANNIE MOSS, ANNIE'S VINTAGE

We are not alone in loving the mass of vintage clothing that greets you when stepping through Annie Moss's shop door. The movie industry often comes calling, and the fashion set can't get enough of it: everyone from John Galliano to Ralph Lauren have raided the shop for quirky trimmings, accessories and one-off pieces.

It seems like you have been here forever…
I have had this shop since 2001, but I have had other shops in the Passage for many years. I started selling vintage clothes here in 1978!

Why did you settle upon this street?
I came up here with my ex-husband – I was an art student in the late 60s – and we both liked antiques and wanted to find out where to sell them. We found a lovely little shop in Camden Passage, and then slowly antiques became textiles. In the late 70s it was all about the slightly hippy look, and I moved into vintage clothing.

How have things changed here?
Camden Passage in the 70s was antiques and nothing else. Slowly things changed and people started moving away from wanting antiques in the home. But the main thing that changed was people wanting to eat out. The food explosion happened.

Where do you like to go out?
Frederick's – you can't go far wrong with that. It's reasonably well priced and you always get a lovely atmosphere there. Then there's the Breakfast Club – that's just wonderful. Elk in the Woods is great, and Kipferl. I like the idea of things coming to the area. A lot of people have complained in the past about things changing, but that's a negative way of looking at it. There's a good atmosphere here, especially in the summer.

How do you buy your stock?
I like travelling! I go to Paris, and last month I was in Brussels – there was a wonderful flea market there. It just has to be fashionable, and has to be seasonal to a certain extent. Everyone these days wants to do a 1920s themed party, which is great for me!

✤ 12 Camden Passage N1 8ED; 020 7359 0796; anniesvintageclothing.co.uk

MICHELLE ANSLOW, SUSY HARPER

It's a good job there is a buzzer on the door of Susy Harper as the owner, Michelle Anslow, is often busy working away on a beautiful new creation in the workshop downstairs. You will find a definite style here, strong feminine shapes with an emphasis on cut and texture.

How long have you been based here?
Since 2007. Before that I was on Cross Street for six years, so have been in the area for 12 years now. At the time Camden Passage was changing towards more of the boutique feel. It's a very good position for tourists here, which is good for me especially as Europeans and Americans like my things as well. They are into a certain look, and I have quite a distinctive style – I concentrate on fabrics.

How did this business come about?
I started at Spitalfields Market. I was a costume designer in film and theatre, so I have always been into clothes and I was looking at what I could do. I didn't have any investment, so I started off with a stall at Spitalfields Market. Quite quickly I realised I did have a market for what I sold and it took off quite well.

Why the name Susy Harper?
I called it after my mum. Her look in the 60s was quite fashionable, and I have always liked the shapes of the 50s/60s.

35 Camden Passage N1 8EA; 020 7704 0688; susyharper.co.uk

Michelle makes everything in her workshop on site

EMMA BROWN, FELIX & LILY'S

When Emma Brown and Vonda Norman both had children, they saw a gap in the children's boutique market in Islington – and filled it impressively with Felix & Lily's, a veritable feast of the hottest children's clothes and toys.

How long have you been open for now?
Seven years. Over time, we have become much more of a boutique space. When we first opened we tried to do everything 'baby' – you name it, we sold it. We gradually discovered what we needed to continue with, and that was children's toys and boutique items, and became a little more gift-orientated.

Had you run a business before?
We had never done anything like this before. Vonda and I both had our first babies and didn't want to go back to our old careers. We felt there was a lack of baby shops around here that had cool stuff, which was a bit more interesting – that's what we wanted to do. It did start on a high, but we have had some tough times too. But for a local shop, you can't have the same thing [opens door behind her]. We have the hair salon out back, which we have had for a year and a half now. At weekends it's so busy.

Expect colour and warmth at Felix & Lily's

What do you like best about Angel?
Isarn on Upper Street, I love that restaurant, and the Old Queens Head down Essex Road. It's great around here for kids.

Is there a good vibe here in Camden Passage?
Everyone sticks together – we will all look out for each other. We have the market down here, and we were all for it opening on Sundays too. There's more of a buzz when it's on and it makes the road more of a shopping destination.

3 Camden Passage N1 8EB; 020 7424 5423; felixandlilys.com

JENNY HUGHES, HOME & PANTRY

Jenny Hughes appears to be at the centre of everything that's good about the community spirit on Camden Passage. Her shop is wonderful too, full of beautiful home furnishings, accessories and gifts, with the service to match. We challenge you to visit if you haven't already done so and leave without buying something.

How is everything going here?
It has been busier this year than last year, certainly. I have been here for almost two years now, I opened in April 2011. It has absolutely flown by!

Why did you set up here?
Well, I am not from London, but I used to come here years ago. I used to visit a friend here and fell in love with it. It came to a stage when I wanted to own my own shop and I stalked Camden Passage for a couple of months. At the time, it was at the heart of the recession, so there were a few vacant shops – I just got really lucky with this great location.

Was this a big change for you?
I took a massive jump. I was working in consultancy, which was well paid, but it really just wasn't interesting me so it was only a matter of time. I never thought I would do it here, but the economy in Ireland wasn't coming out of recession so I couldn't do it there. It was a massive risk, but my family are all entrepreneurs and I thought what was the worst case scenario? I could go back to my old job, so I took the risk.

What was the idea behind Home & Pantry?
I have always been passionate about interiors and also been passionate about business. There's a shop back in Ireland called Voca, which is a real destination and hugely successful. I noticed there wasn't anything like that in London, so we have a nice mix of products – the bigger picture for this store is to have a café and a lifestyle store as one.

What's great about the area?
It has a villagey feel to it and everyone knows each other down here. The great thing about Angel is that there's a little bit of everything.

✤ 114 Islington High Street, Camden Passage N1 8EG; 020 7226 9528; homeandpantry.com

Jenny Hughes has created a real destination shop in Home & Pantry

SUSAN CROPPER, LOOP

Some five years ago, we first came across Loop on Cross Street – and were amazed with what we found. Colourful yarns and knitted gems were everywhere we looked and we were concerned when founder Susan Cropper announced they were moving to Camden Passage. We needn't have worried – things have got just bigger and better.

Why did you bring Loop to Camden Passage?
I was on Cross Street for five years. I simply needed a bigger space and Camden Passage is so special. It has the history of the antiques shops, but it's also close to the Tube – and I fell in love with this building. It's just an amazing location.

What inspired Loop?
The idea was just to have the most gorgeous knitting supplies from all over the world, great stuff and great classes – everything to do with knitting. Ultimately just to be inspiring. People who don't knit come in and they want to learn how to knit!

How hard was it to start your own business?
It was a phenomenal jump. I was passionate about doing it and I still remain passionate about doing it. Owning your own shop, you suddenly have the responsibility of looking after your staff, and everything about running a shop was a shock to me in the beginning. For the first two years I didn't sleep much!

What's the greatest thing you have learnt?
To allow myself to be really happy with how things have gone, instead of stressing all the time about what you haven't done.

✤ 15 Camden Passage N1 8EA; 020 7288 1160; loopknitting.com

➔

Susan Cropper has livened up the knitting scene in Angel

Kate McIntyre is the latest addition to the Camden Passage women in business scene

KATE MCINTYRE, ETC.

In the space of 20 minutes, literally every passer-by has stopped to peer in the shop window of Etc. New to Camden Passage, Kate McIntyre's shop has certainly added extra intrigue to a street that is already filled with plenty of inspiring goodies. The range of humorous cards certainly put a smile on my face.

You are new to the street aren't you?
I have been open a month. Everyone is saying it's nice to have a fresh, independent card shop. The locals have been really lovely and supportive, spreading the word for me. Etc. seemed to fit so well into Camden Passage with its slightly quirky nature. It has been hard work: I got the keys on 21 January and turned it all around in 12 days as I wanted to be open for Valentine's Day.

Were you always going to run your own business?
We have got a family business up North, so I was brought up around a small business. To be honest it's something I wanted to do for a long time. I don't think the timing is ever right – the recession, family, other work... I just really felt that personally this was the perfect time. Yes it's a scary time, but in a way it's quite an exciting time. You have to be confident in your product and offer something different.

It's certainly colourful in here...
I wanted it to be inviting. Being a small shop, you can react quickly to market trends. With the gifts, I wanted something at a good price point, and to be interesting and quirky. I wanted to have that community feel to the shop, and get to know the local customers.

Have you noticed a real community spirit here?
Since I moved in, there has been a massive community feeling. Everyone seems very together and supportive, and certainly very welcoming. It's got a lot busier and there are always new and interesting shops coming in.

✤ 95 Camden Passage N1 8EA; 020 7359 5633

EMMA REES, THE BLOW BAR

You wouldn't normally associate the glitz of Los Angeles with the rustic charm of Camden Passage, but that was the inspiration behind The Blow Bar. A styling bar concept salon, the welcome from Emma Rees and her team is always warm, and it's a place where you can enjoy a 30-minute high fashion blow dry.

How long have you been open for now?
Just over two years. Camden Passage is a bit of destination place, and there's such a diversity of people that come here. With The Blow Bar, we have all kinds of women coming in, from a 16-year-old girl right up to a lady in her mid-60s. Being so close to the Business Design Centre and places of residence, we always have a mix of clients.

Is this your first business venture?
This is my first venture in London. Years ago I had a salon in Australia. Since opening here, I have opened another salon in Wandsworth, which is going very well too.

Why was Angel the perfect place to start?
We had looked for a location for a while, but with Camden Passage there was a nice mix with the antique shops and the fashionable stores, and we felt this was somewhere we really wanted to be. We didn't want to be on the high street, we wanted to be something of a destination.

There's a warm feeling here when you walk in…
That's very important, to have smiling faces and not some intimidating salon, a place where people can be themselves.

✤ 25 Camden Passage N1 8EA; 020 7354 1551; theblowbar.com

Emma Rees has brought a LA concept to N1

Expect anything and everything in the wonderful world of SMUG

LIZZIE EVANS, SMUG

We have always loved SMUG and we are clearly not alone judging by the column inches it has taken up in magazines all over the country. The brainchild of Lizzie Evans, she has turned a regular shop into a light and airy space filled with 1950s furniture, handmade toys, gorgeous stationery, quirky kitchenware and chic ceramics.

Why was Camden Passage perfect for SMUG?
I am a local girl, so Camden Passage seemed the right spot. I felt Upper Street was too commercial, Camden Passage has a quirkier edge. I knew I wanted to have the mix of vintage furniture with new products and Camden Passage was perfect for that.

How long have you been open for now?
Four years this June. This was my first business, but it took a long time to happen. We have been open for four years, but working on the project for six. Straight out of university I went to America to do an internship and all the ideas happened there. When I came back it was all about finding the right building. It seemed like the right time to do it.

SMUG is such a glorious mix, so where did the idea come from?
There was a place I went to, when I was 14/15, in New York called The Apartment. It was a shop that was literally an apartment, you could buy anything. I thought that was fantastic. I always wanted somewhere that felt like a home. When I started planning SMUG, minimalism was at the height of being commercial – but I didn't want everything tidied away. When people come in, they are not sure where to look first!

Being a local girl, where are your favourite places in the area?
Ottolenghi's – I am always eating there. I would like more independent shops, and Maison d'etre on Highbury Corner is great… My brother is opening a café called The Place on Canonbury Place soon. I always had the vision of having a café in the basement, so will learn from his experience.

You are surrounded by entrepreneurs…
My dad and other brother are based upstairs, they run a contemporary arts company. Everyone says we are so entrepreneurial – we just get on with things!

✤ 13 Camden Passage N1 8EA; 020 7354 0253; ifeelsmug.com

The workshop where Kamilla creates her jewellery

KAMILLA RUBERG, RUBERG JEWELLERY

Since her graduation from The Royal College of Art in 2002, Danish-born Kamilla Ruberg has established her home and business in the heart of North London. Working from her studio and shop on Camden Passage, she has produced her contemporary Scandinavian aesthetic to widespread acclaim.

How long have you had this shop for?
Since November 2004. It was at a time when Camden Passage started to really change, although there was still a lot of antiques about. It was coincidental that I ended up here – we needed a workshop and a shop and we just found this space that was really sweet. I didn't want to be on a busy street as I would be sitting in the workshop a lot – now, of course, it's a lot busier!

Was this your first business?
Yes and it was a massive step. I was inspired by Denmark, where I am from – this is quite a common set up there, a shop with a workshop. In the beginning it was just me on my own every day, now we have four people working here.

What did you want to offer?
To offer my designs, hand-made, but with more of a personal service. I wanted to offer the opportunity for customers to come in and speak to me. People can have small details they would like changed. There are quite a few jewellers around, but often you don't have a workshop too.

Is this a great area for community spirit as well?
It's great, there is a good feeling around. There are a lot of new shops opening all the time, quite a lot of small businesses and I hope that will stay.

✤ 21 Camden Passage N1 8ED; 020 7226 5515; ruberg.co.uk

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In my kitchen

Alan Bird, Chef/Owner, Bird of Smithfield

How long have you been looking for this location?
Six months. We wanted a classic British feel and look, but informal in a relaxed and comfortable environment.

What can we expect from the menu?
Some classics and also some new dishes. In the dining room, you can expect my Heritage Beetroot, Goat's Cheese and Ruby Leaf Salad, my Shepherd's Pie made with Lamb, and Ox Cheek, Porter and Oyster Pie. Then some interesting nibbles and small plates in the bar and lounge areas.

There is also a basement bar – was that always the plan, or was the space just perfect for it?
Both. We looked at the space and decided it would not only be a great little venue, but also would make an excellent bar space. Bird of Smithfield will be a space in which customers can feel relaxed in.

✤ 26 Smithfield Street EC1A 9LB; birdofsmithfield.com

LOCAL LUXE

PIG IN THE MIDDLE

The Pig & Butcher are now hosting monthly butchery classes in their upstairs dining room.

✤ 80 Liverpool Road N1 0QD; 020 7226 8304

Sundays just got better

When it comes to life's little pleasures, a leisurely Sunday lunch has to be up there in the top ten. On a recent visit to the Malmaison hotel, The Angel resident enjoyed a delicious three course lunch for a very reasonable £19.95 per person.

✤ 18-21 Charterhouse Square EC1M 6AH; 020 7012 3700; malmaison.com

Gourmet NEWS

Buona Pasqua!

Easter is a time that brings people together no matter what your age – after all, everyone enjoys receiving a chocolate egg. This year, Carluccio's selection of gifts celebrates the joys of spring with a palette of fresh greens and warm golds that leave you feeling that winter is long gone. The Angel resident loves the Ovetti di Cioccolato, an elegant jar of individually wrapped milk chocolate eggs.

✤ 305-307 Upper Street N1 2TU; 020 7359 8167; carluccios.com

TOM'S CHOICE

BEST THING SINCE...

'Like so many other skills, bakery is part art, part science,' says Tom Parker Bowles. 'Yeast has to be measured, kneading must be correct, dough must be proved. What I'm after is London's best.' Let's start right here.

Euphorium Bakery
The very first Euphorium Bakery back in 1999, we say 202 Upper Street is still their best. It remains their centre-piece too, supplying all their branches with freshly baked bread and goodies every day. What's more, there's two of them on Upper Street.

✤ 202 Upper Street N1 1RQ / 79 Upper Street N1 0NU; euphoriumbakery.com

Gail's
This may be bigger than most, with nine branches across town, but quality is generally high and Gail's is always a welcome sight. Just like a proper loaf of bread. At their Exmouth Market outlet, not only will you find pastries galore, but it is their only shop offering wine and beer too.

✤ 33-35 Exmouth Market EC1R 4QL; 020 7713 6550; gailsbread.co.uk

E5 Bakehouse
This is becoming better known by the day and they take their sourcing very seriously indeed, as much as possible from local suppliers. Make sure you don't miss their Hackney Wild Pain de Campagne and find out why they are so passionate about their sourdough.

✤ Arch 395, Mentmore Terrace E8 3PH; 020 8525 2890; e5bakehouse.com

Love is all around

Frederick's can do no wrong it seems, but Mark Kebble puts it to the ultimate test - visiting on the evening of Valentine's Day

LOCAL LUXE

Everyone, it seems, loves Frederick's. The majority of the ladies featured in our Camden Passage special name-checked it as their favourite restaurant, and whenever talking about the Angel area to those based elsewhere, it's the one name they seem to know. Their blend of good service, a fantastic setting and a reasonably priced menu featuring fine dining at its best is a winner all round. However, I have visited favourite restaurants in the past on Valentine's evening and seen standards shattered, so it was time for the ultimate test.

Dimmed lights and a nice buzz greeted my wife and I on our arrival, with background music setting the tone. Couples and their candlelit-tables were already in place, and we were shown to our seat in the conservatory-style setting out back. Being Valentine's, we were faced with a special menu, but as always the choice was superb. The

The proof is in their pudding (and the rest of their stunning menu)

amuse bouche certainly gave an indication of what was to come: Salmon Lollipop, Mushroom on Parmesan Crisps, Grape and Almond Gazpacho, combinations that I admit I wouldn't normally plump for, but each had a unique taste and whetted the appetite for what was to come.

Seafood played a role in our starters, with the lobster ravioli and scallops getting the nod. The ravioli, in particular, was fantastic: the plump lobster-filled pasta concoction was a 'meaty' delight.

As we waited for our mains – goat's cheese for her, lamb for me – our sommelier was fascinating to talk to. Over the course of the evening, we sampled a host of different wines matched to our dishes, choices we would not have made for ourselves. A real eye-opener and a welcome one at that.

However, the red wine that accompanied my lamb was almost forgotten about as I tucked into the medium-rare beauty. This was an excellent cut of meat, joined in all its splendour by Dauphinoise potatoes and garlic-tinged spinach. Fantastic stuff. The goat's cheese, meanwhile, was fresh and light, which was a good job considering what was still to come.

As this was Valentine's evening, we couldn't resist sharing the '3 reasons to love strawberry' dessert offering, a tantalising trio that included sorbet, cheesecake and a chocolate smothered, you got it, strawberry. Frederick's can't do no wrong? The proof is in the pudding (and the rest of their stunning menu).

✤ Camden Passage N1 8EG; 020 7359 2888; fredericks.co.uk

✤ What's in a name?

Ever wondered how Frederick's came by its now very recognisable name? Built in 1789 as The Gun public house, Frederick's was rebuilt in 1834 and renamed The Duke of Sussex in honour of Prince Augustus Frederick, after who today's restaurant takes its name. The building has evolved over the years, but today consists of two main dining spaces as well as a fabulous garden, and the Clarence and Sussex rooms for private parties, weddings and bar mitzvahs.

Make it at home

Daphne's Original Welsh Lamb Rump, Aubergine Caviar, by Adam Hilliard, Head Chef (left)

AUBERGINE CAVIAR

1. Deep-fry 1 medium-sized finely diced aubergine, leave on a paper towel to soak up the oil – leave to cool.

2. Sauté 1 medium-sized chopped Spanish onion in olive oil with the following spices: ½ teaspoon of finely chopped red chilli 2 teaspoons of cumin powder, 1 cinnamon stick, 2 teaspoons of fresh coriander and 1 handful of sultanas.

3. Once the onion is golden brown add tinned tomatoes (500g) and reduce on a low/medium heat for approximately 30 minutes. Remove cinnamon stick, add the aubergine with finely chopped parsley, coriander and mint.

5. The aubergine caviar can be made in advance and re-heated in a non-stick pan.

6. Sear the lamb on a high heat with no oil to break into the fat. Add salt and leave on one side. The lamb takes 9 minutes for pink or 12 minutes for well done in a 220c oven – always ensure that oven dish is hot before adding the lamb fillets. We leave the lamb to stand for about 5 minutes before serving.

7. Allow spinach to wilt in a dry non-stick pan with a knob of garlic butter in low/medium heat, this should take approximately 3 minutes.

FOOD AND DRINK

Over two thirds of readers have chosen to eat out in the last month

Source: Archant Readership Focus Groups (2012) ESCP 2011Street Survey TGI

www.theresident.co.uk

RETAIL

54% of readers will buy local and British produce when they can

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The World of Extraordinary Objects

October Gallery presents this fabulous group exhibition of mesmerising mixed media works by artists from around the world, open until 13 April. This exhibition will introduce artists Gyeong Yoon An, Jukhee Kwon and Remy Jungerman. Jukhee Kwon's work in particular caught The Angel resident's eye: using abandoned and disused books, she shreds the pages by hand to create magnificent 'book sculptures'.

✤ 24 Old Gloucester Street WC1N 3AL; 020 7242 7367; octobergallery.co.uk

MIXED MEDIA

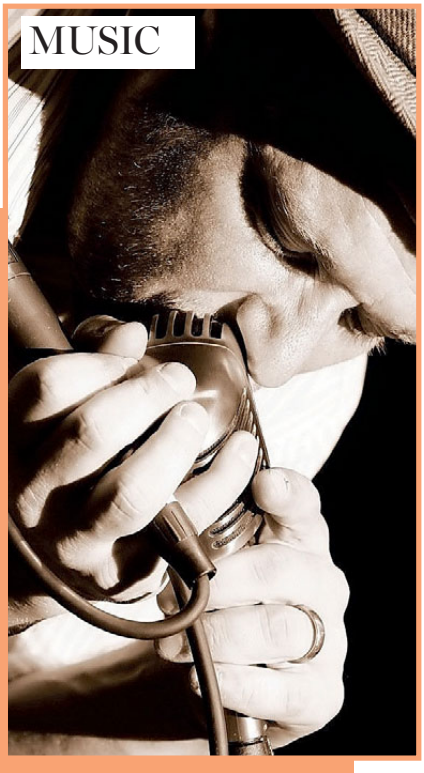
Local LIFE

FILM

Trance

At present, Danny Boyle can do no wrong. The darling of the British media thanks to the London Olympics Opening Ceremony that he masterminded, Trance was his project on the side. A fine art auctioneer (James McAvoy) gets mixed up with a criminal gang and joins forces with a hypnotherapist (Rosario Dawson) to recover a lost painting in a film that blurs the boundaries between what's real and what is hypnotic suggestion.

✤ See it from 27 March at Vue Islington, 36 Parkfield Street N1 0PS; 08712 240 240



MUSIC

DAVID FORD

Seven years into his career, David Ford will release his fourth solo album, Charge, this month. Charge will reflect the familiar musical and lyrical themes of David's work: a healthy shot of Americana, a sprinkle of English melodicism and a touch of rock n' roll, all tied together with finely crafted lyrics that observe his estrangement from the world of modern rock. See him at Scala on 3 April.

✤ 275-277 Pentonville Road N1 9NL; 020 7833 2022; scala-london.co.uk

PHOTOGRAPHY

Stands Alone

This is a wonderful exhibition that explores the community at Highbury Stadium Square, the residential complex located on the former grounds of Arsenal FC. Through vivid portrayals, photographer Simone Novotny reveals the lives and stories of the inhabitants of 30 of the 700 newly established homes. She exposes the singularity of people that are usually treated as a mass: in the past as fans, more recently as privileged residents. From designers to lawyers, students to teachers, engineers to architects, everyone lives behind similar front doors distinct from each other only by a number.

Simone Novotny worked with each of the participants to develop a series of portraits in which they defined how, when and where they wanted to be represented in their homes. They are presented alongside audio and video testimony which illustrates how it can be difficult to create a sense of community.

✤ 16 April-26 August. Geffrye Museum, 136 Kingsland Road, E2 8EA; 020 7739 9893; geffrye-museum.org.uk

ART

Unfolding Landscape

Jeremy Gardiner's paintings are effectively an artistic excavation of the geology of landscape: how it is shaped by human activity and the forces of nature. Aware of distinct geologies, in Unfolding Landscape he attempts to interpret the hidden subterranean realms that contain the marks and secrets of their own distant formation.

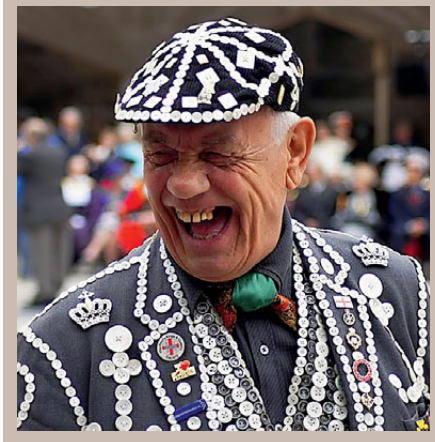
✤ Until 26 April. Kings Place Gallery, 90 York Way

EVENTS

3 of the best... St George's Day celebrations

1 From 23-27 April, Leadenhall Market will be hosting its own special St George's Week, which will be a celebration of English culture. You will be able to enjoy Morris Dancers and Pearly Kings and Queens, hear English folk music, sample English meats and cheeses, chutneys and compots, cream teas and fish and chips, and cap it all off with some English champagne, cider and beers. The ideal event for the City of London's oldest and best-loved market.

✤ cityoflondon.gov.uk/leadenhall



2 The ever-popular V&A Museum of Childhood just east of Angel will be holding its own St George's Day event on 21 April. Expect a day of merriment in and around the museum in celebration of St George: there will be live music and dance, storytelling, traditional games and arts & crafts activities. The perfect day for all of the family.

✤ museumofchildhood.org.uk

3 There can't be a better pub to celebrate St George's Day than in one called The Castle. This local favourite on Pentonville Road boasts a wonderful roof terrace, so hopefully the weather will have finally moved on from the lengthy winter we have endured and you can enjoy one of the finest outdoor drinking spaces in Islington. There's not a bad menu, either, to get stuck into. Wonderful.

✤ 54 Pentonville Road, N1 9HF; 020 7713 1858

EVENT

Zoofari

Let the children go really wild this Easter at the N1 Centre in Islington as the shopping centre teams up with Zoofari, the UK's largest mobile zoo, from 11-12 April. Families visiting the N1 Centre will be greeted by a whole host of furry friends from slender tailed meerkats to wallabies, African tortoises and even Chilean Rose tarantulas. Experienced Zoofari handlers will be on-hand to entertain and educate shoppers on each of the animals in an enclosed area in the middle of the centre, promising a fun day out for all the family.

✤ Find more information at n1islington.com

BOOK NOW FOR MAY

Now for something a little different… The Make Believe Festival heads to Islington between 3-5 May, which will offer an unrivalled sensory bombardment where Victoriana meets Fairytale. Staged at the Islington Metal Works on Torrens Street, Make Believe promises to reawaken the imaginative and playful side of festival experiences. With an emphasis on transporting audiences to strange altered histories, and enchanted realms of new discovery, the weekend is packed with an exciting line up of live music, breathtaking performances and wondrous artwork.

✤ Find out listings information at makebeliever.info

Opening at the Almeida Theatre on 17 May, Lyndsey Turner will direct the world premiere of Lucy Kirkwood's Chimerica. Tiananmen Square, 1989. As tanks roll through Beijing and soldiers hammer on his hotel door, Joe – a young American photojournalist – captures a piece of history. In New York, 2012, Joe is covering a Presidential election. When a cryptic message is left in a Beijing newspaper, Joe is driven to discover the truth behind the unknown hero he first captured on film.

✤ Almeida Street N1 1TA; 020 7359 4404; almeida.co.uk

Adam Gillam's solo show, Ideal Paste, opens late April and runs throughout May at Tintype. Adam's comic, delicate sculptures have an impromptu quality, akin to a makeshift moment given form. For Ideal Paste, Adam has been working on a series of wall-based works that are almost paintings.

✤ 18 Cross Street EC1N 8UN; tintypegallery.com

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Future vision

A new Young Mayor and Deputy Young Mayor have been appointed by Islington's youth council. Seventeen-year-old Jasmine Martins (pictured) and her deputy, 15-year-old Elliot Colley, were elected by their fellow youth councillors. Jasmine will be responsible for representing Islington's youth council at regional Young Mayor meetings and will have the casting vote among the council. A former Elizabeth Garrett Anderson student, Jasmine is now studying for her A-levels in English literature, history, economics, and government and politics and is hoping to study politics and history at university.

Just Juniors

EDITOR'S CHOICE EASTER FUN

On 2-5 April and 10-13 April, the Bank of England Museum presents EGGstravaganza, where there will be a treasure trail to find eggs hidden in the Museum, with a chocolate egg for every child who takes part.

✤ Threadneedle Street EC2R 8AH; 020 7601 4878; bankofengland.co.uk

On 6 April, Geffrye Museum will be hosting a very special Easter Treasure Hunt. Take the opportunity to explore the gardens, answer clever clues and collect your treasure from the Quiz Desk. A wonderful event.

✤ 136 Kingsland Road E2 8EA; 020 7739 9893; geffrye-museum.org.uk

Ever wondered how people used their imaginations and hands to create vital crafts during the Second World War? The Museum of London presents Make Do and Mend on 2 April, where children will be able to create their own toys.

✤ 150 London Wall EC2Y 5HN; museumoflondon.org.uk

Five minutes with...

HENRY DIMBLEBY, CO-FOUNDER, LEON RESTAURANTS

What can you tell us about the Cook 5 initiative?
What we are trying to do is get every child in the country to cook five savoury dishes before they leave home. Sixty per cent of kids today leave home without being able to do that. It's so important for their health with obesity becoming an issue.

How does Cook 5 fit in with the Leon ethos?
When John [Vincent] and I started Leon, the idea was to make it possible for everyone to eat good food. We started off in fast food, thinking there was no reason it needed to be bad, but very quickly we saw there are all sorts of other areas where this passion overlapped.

Did you have a foodie upbringing?
I was surrounded by food. My mum was a cookery writer [Josceline Dimbleby], so there was always good food in the house. She was often working, so didn't get to cook a lot, but we had big meals with all the family where I learnt to appreciate good food at an early age.

✤ To find out how you can upload a recipe, visit cook5.co.uk

Embracing April

Felix & Lily's have got some great clothes and toys in for the new season. Gems The Angel resident have picked up on include fun rattle snakes (£14.99), a gorgeous Jack the Dog babygrow (£22.99) and, featured here, their exclusive April Lace dress (£45). Make sure your little one looks the part this spring.

✤ 3 Camden Passage N1 8EA; 020 7424 5423; felixandlilys.com

Showing the way

Innovative projects in Islington helping to boost the next generation

Creating opportunities

A group of young people from City of London Academy Islington have been given a head-start in their careers through an apprenticeship programme with AAT (Association of Accounting Technicians). Developed in 2011, the partnership offers apprenticeship placements to students completing an NVQ in Business Administration.

Chief Executive of AAT, Jane Scott Paul, says the partnership was developed as a way to give back to the community. 'We established a relationship with Islington Academy to set up an apprenticeship scheme as a way to explore our own talent from school leaver age,' she explains. 'AAT works directly with numerous employers that implement successful apprenticeship programmes and therefore knew the benefits a well-structured apprenticeship programme could bring.' AAT is the UK's professional membership body for accounting and finance staff and is made up of over 125,000 members worldwide. Over the course of 12 months, the AAT apprentices are given the opportunity to work across all teams within the organisation.

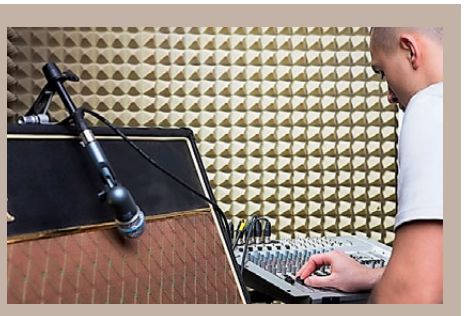
✤ Find out more about the scheme by visiting aat.org.uk

Jane Scott Paul, Chief Executive of AAT

Life changer

If you're between 12-16 and read a book in 2012 that meant something special to you, then make sure you vote in the 2013 Islington Teen Read Vote

✤ See Islington.gov.uk to find out how you can enter



Step in the right direction

Taking place on the second Thursday of every month, STEP OUT! is a new and exciting event brought to you by the team at youth development programme, Stepladder Worldwide. A monthly networking showcase, STEP OUT! discards the old-fashioned format of traditional networking events by creating an exciting, fresh and interesting event for all ages and backgrounds. It offers the chance to mingle with all walks of the creative industries, and launched in March at the Wenlock & Essex.

Pick this out

On 24 March the National Literacy Trust is organising its first ever UK Fun Run at North London's Victoria Park, raising vital funds to help spread access to literature to more individuals across the UK. The National Literacy Trust currently works with 38,000 children in the poorest regions of this country, not to mention adults, with the aim to reduce poor literacy that impacts on their standard of living, independence and mental wellbeing.

✤ To get involved, visit literacytrust.org.uk

Green fingers

Teachers from more than 1,260 schools across London can now nominate for the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) Young School Gardener of the Year 2013, a quest to find the most knowledgeable, enthusiastic and talented gardening pupil in the UK. The RHS Campaign for School Gardening started in 2007 to support and encourage UK schools to use a garden as a teaching resource.

✤ Teachers and other adults associated with a school can nominate a pupil by visiting rhs.org.uk/schoolgardening by 18 May

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Gym of the month

New River

This wonderful space aims to bring exercise to the 80% of women who do not exercise regularly by providing a safe, friendly, non-intimidating place for them to transform their wellbeing over the long term. How you get in shape at this women-only gym is your choice as New River have a fantastic range of exercises on offer: their 30-minute workouts include 'drop a dress size and tone up' and 'reduce cellulite and develop lean strength'; their 90 Day Plan guarantees fat loss, toning up and improved fitness with one-to-one coaching that combines both exercise and nutrition; Circuit for Women enables you to burn calories and achieve lasting weight control; and PowerPlate Classes offers extraordinary toning, strengthening and cellulite reduction in 30-minute, trainer-led classes.

✤ 321 Essex Road N1 2BD; 020 7226 5444; newriverwomen.co.uk

The Angel resident *LOVES*

Start preparing now

Tommy's has been chosen as the official charity for one of Britain's most prestigious 10K runs through the capital, taking place this year on Sunday 14 July. Inspired by the unforgettable spirit that the 2012 Olympics brought to London, Tommy's is hoping to keep the momentum alive with the British 10K 2013. The popular road race takes runners on an iconic tour through the heart of London, and each year 25,000 participants fill the streets.

✤ For further information and to register to run for Tommy's, visit tommys.org/british10k

Health & fitness NEWS

Positive thinking

The new Director for Public Health for Camden and Islington – Julie Billett – has been welcomed into her new role by both councils. The responsibility for public health transfers on 1 April, 2013, from the NHS to local authorities. Camden Chief Executive, Mike Cooke, says: 'We are very impressed by Julie's vision and her understanding of the challenges faced by both our councils.'

Best foot forward

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✤ £90 from Sportec, 248 Upper Street N1 1RU; 020 7247 6644; vivobarefoot.com/uk

3 for National Garlic Day

Lean cuts like **pork loin** can be just as tasty as the fatty equivalent, with garlic adding a welcome intensity and a burst of antioxidants.

Garlic mushrooms are the perfect midweek light meal, and paired with wholewheat pasta can also make a main course.

Plum tomatoes may take a while to bake in the oven in garlic, but they can be kept for a few days in the fridge, a real healthy snack.

ASK THE EXPERT

Jade Davidson, Reflexologist, Rosey Feet

As we say goodbye to the cold dark evenings, we can finally shake off those wintery cobwebs. With over 7,000 nerve endings on the feet, it's no wonder that reflexology can have such incredible effects on the body and mind. A one-hour treatment gives your mind and body the opportunity to redress the balance and find its way back to its natural state.

✤ Jade Davidson provides home treatments, so visit roseyfeet.co.uk or call 07891 778652 to find out more

Style over substance?

It looks great, but does St Martin's Lane have what it takes to become a truly destination hotel? Mark Kebble treats the senses to find out

At one point during my stay at St Martin's Lane I feel like I have been transported into the 'make-believe' world of Stanley Kubrick's A Space Odyssey. Wherever I look, colourful beams of light hit the senses: even going up in the lift feels like you are in your very own mini, private nightclub.

Perhaps the glittering surroundings are no surprise for a 5-star hotel slap-bang in the middle of the West End. My wife and I visited a few days after London Fashion Week came to a close, and there were a couple of instances that suggested a hangover. The customer service up front was a little stilted and too staged, and the Light Bar in particular was eerily quiet.

Minor quibbles, however, for a hotel that delights right from the off as you enter the tallest revolving doors in London. Philippe Starck-designed, there are plays on scale everywhere you look, and that eclecticism extends to the custom-designed furniture of our Queen Double room. The floor-to-ceiling bay windows offered a view of the Coliseum, and all the mod-cons were present as can be expected with such a forward-thinking hotel. There were touches that were perhaps too eclectic – the closing of a heavy door to add some privacy to the bathroom area was most bizarre – but it was a comfortable experience.

Another case of not quite hitting top marks all round came in the form of the spa: it doesn't actually exist at St Martin's Lane. For that, it's a short trip across town to sister venue Sanderson, which in general seemed much livelier. The Agua Spa is all curtains and white walls, a strange sensation not to actually go into a separate room for a massage – I could hear what was going on all around me, which did affect the feeling of

The eclectic design of Asia de Cuba

St Martin's Lane's rooms offer fabulous views of the West End

Weekend *ESCAPE*

✤ Big brother
Located the other side of the West End to St Martin's Lane, Sanderson is a landmark 50s building that has also been transformed by Philippe Starck into a surreal Cocteau-like dream world. Striking features include the absence of 'normal' walls and a floor-to-ceiling glass façade that diffuses natural light through flowing layers of ethereal sheer curtains. The lobby is a wondrous thing, with Starck's visionary style mixing baroque and modern, juxtaposing Salvador Dali's curvaceous red lips sofa with classic 60s mosaics.

The Philippe Starck-designed hotel delights right from the off

Enter via the tallest revolving doors in London

calm. Still, my back desperately needed the Deep Tissue Massage I was treated to and credit goes to my masseuse who asked all the right questions.

Back at St Martin's Lane, and after a quick drink in the aforementioned quiet Light Bar (although it has to be said this was a Sunday, and the in-demand nights here run from Thursday to Saturday), it was time for dinner in Asia de Cuba. Overseen by renowned international restaurateur Jeffrey Chodorow, it's a heady fusion of Asian and Cuban cuisine, all housed in a dramatic colonnaded space. There were no gourmet slim pickings here as the dishes were exceptionally filling. The black cod was good, but the BBQ chicken fabulous, swimming in a tamarind sauce I couldn't get enough of. Despite our protestations that dessert was a no-go, we were encouraged to try the Mexican doughnuts filled with butterscotch sauce and dusted in cinnamon sugar. Sounds good on paper doesn't it, and the results are incredibly addictive. We felt like little kids stuffing the brioche delights into our mouths, ridiculous grins spreading across our faces.

The next morning at breakfast, the theatre-goers have been replaced by business people meeting at Asia de Cuba over a poached egg or two. It's a wonder who exactly St Martin's Lane are trying to attract as their clientele – tourists, the fashion crowd perhaps – and a lot of what they do, they do very well. But just as Kubrick's masterpiece is flawed in some respects (do tweet us if you disagree), so too St Martin's Lane is not perfect – but it's certainly one heck of an experience.

✤ 45 St Martin's Lane, WC2N 4HX. For special offers and current room rates, call 020 7300 5500 or visit stmartinslane.com

Celebrating craftsmanship

The Balvenie, handcrafted whisky distillery, launch their Masters of Craft Awards, 2013

Continuing on from the success of The Balvenie Masters of Craft Awards in 2011 and 2012, this year brings a new line-up of award categories and three new judges.

The Balvenie is looking for talented and passionate craftsmen – from upholsterers and silversmiths, to tailors and contemporary designer makers. The 2013 awards are now open to entries with a chance to win a £1,000 commission and the title The Balvenie Masters of Craft winner.

This year The Balvenie has teamed up with Waitrose in the Food and Drink category. With a passion for the very best food and drink in Britain, Waitrose and their shoppers make the perfect team to decide on the two finalists in this category. The winner in this category will then be decided by the judges.

The Balvenie's Malt Master, David Stewart, says of the awards 'It is both exciting and humbling to see so many disciplines and makers who value the importance of craftsmanship in their day-to-day work.'

The Balvenie has established a patronage of craftsmanship at the distillery by maintaining the traditional crafts of whisky making. By still growing their own barley, malting in their traditional floor maltings, employing a team of coopers, having a resident coppersmith and benefiting from the skills of Scotch Whisky's longest serving Malt Master, The Balvenie lives and breathes craftsmanship every day.

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Sport & Leisure
Style & Accessories
Interiors & Objects
Technical & Engineering
Food & Drink

in partnership with Waitrose

Entries can be made via the website at **www.thebalveniemastersofcraft.com** and can be made by both craftspeople who would like to enter their own work, and by the general public who can nominate craftspeople they see as deserving recognition.

Entries are open from 19th March to 30th August 2013. As well as the esteemed title of **The Balvenie Masters of Craft** winner, there will also be a £1,000 commission for the winner in each category.

THE JUDGES

The judges combine commentators, curators, designers, makers and high-end buyers, in a fully rounded team that complete a 360-degree perspective on the world of the hand-crafted. The judges are:

David Stewart – The Balvenie's Malt Master
Natalie Melton – Curator of The New Craftsmen
Max Frasier – Deputy Director of the London Design Festival
Giles Ellis – Founder of the Schofield Watch Company
Tom Dyckhoff – Presenter and design commentator

Waitrose Shoppers at Waitrose will be selecting the Food & Drink finalists. Keep an eye out in Waitrose Weekend magazine for details.

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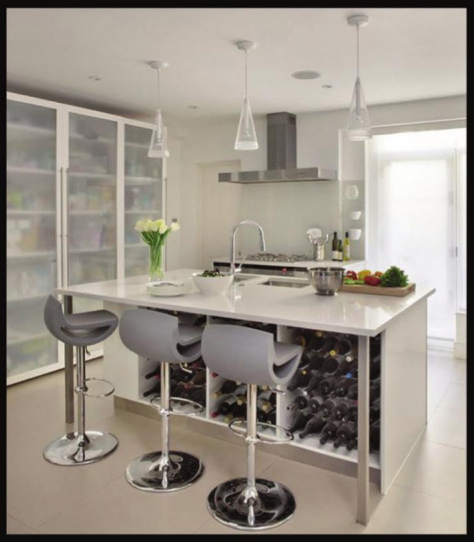

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Sharp design

No longer the domain of churches, stained glass windows are a modern and intricate way to add beauty to your home, as Kat Hopps discovers.

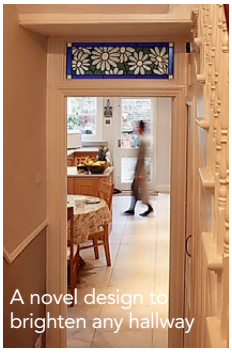
Bespoke craftsmanship can sometimes be a loosely applied label, but Jenny Vyse truly embodies these values. One of the few stained glass designer-makers still working in the UK, she provides stunning modern designs for home owners and businesses alike.

Although Jenny's skills were born from an accidental rite of passage – she was burgled as a student and the cost of repairing the front room's stained glass window was so great she decided to repair it herself – she pursued the skill upon graduation, starting out in 1994 with commissions from family and friends, and growing the range of works to include hangings, lampshades and panels. Her passion for the process is clearly the driving force. 'It's a very skilled job,' she enthuses. 'I love cutting the glass: it's very satisfying and perhaps comes from my love of jigsaws.'

Viewing the array of Jenny's commissions – which includes reproductions and new styles – shows not only the quality and expertise, but the intricate patterns and colours. Staid design this isn't. 'Some Victorian stained glass windows are dowdy. but what I do is modern,' she says. 'The colours are vibrant and you can get interesting shapes. There isn't a need for geometric thinking; it can be free flowing.'

With a love for photography and nature, when Jenny is not client-led on projects her creativity knows no bounds. Amongst her creations, she has incorporated children's hand and footprints plus mythical creature designs. Has she ever received any unusual requests? Most definitely, including a pair of glass gentlemen's Y-fronts for a menswear shop!

Jenny seems so happily content, I wonder what ambitions can be left for one so emotionally fulfilled by her work? 'I would love to do a public commission in the future,' she says. For such a talent, this can only be a matter of time; we can't wait to see it.



A novel design to brighten any hallway

Downtime distractions

✤ On local life

'I love the local area, there is so much going on and there are lots of like-minded people. We have a couple of kids and it's a great place for them as it is built up but there are lots of green spaces.'

✤ Favourite haunts

'Fred and Fran's coffee shop in Stoke Newington and The Picturehouse Cinema.'

✤ Jenny Vyse Stained Glass, 020 7502 0434, jennyvyse.co.uk

Jenny Vyse in her studio creating a new piece of work

A floral stained glass window

Clematis lampshade

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Artisan Cordless Hand Blender in Onyx Black, £139.

✤ johnlewis.com

Tiger's Strawberry Shaped Chopping Board, £2.

✤ tigerstore.co.uk

Giga 5 from JURA, £3,750.

✤ jurauk.com

Farmyard 4 Cup Teapot, £54.95.

✤ emmabridgewater.co.uk

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✤ lladro.com; 0800 015 2413

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✤ portmeirion.co.uk

Set of two egg cups in stainless steel dish, £11.50.

✤ brabantia.com

Reception room
The apartment is flooded with natural light, so we installed the transparent sunscreens to keep the heat out

View from the top

Situated in a Conservation Area, by an old Roman road, with a 360 degree roof terrace... Welcome to 1 Owen Street

Whenever someone is selling a property, they will always claim theirs is unique – but Derk Brouwer has a case more than most. 'To the best of my knowledge, two whole floors with a 360 degree view over London in this price range is unique,' he says. That's undoubtedly a winner.

The penthouse apartment at 1 Owen Street – itself located in an Islington Conservation Area and by St John Street, which is an old Roman road – has so much going for it. Travelling between London and Amsterdam, Derk saw the penthouse as an opportunity not to be missed when it came on to the market in 2006. After all, he was 'tired of carrying suitcases all the time'.

The three bedroom property features amazing living and entertaining space, with the master bedroom a particular attraction. 'That features a multi-person jacuzzi,' Derk says, surprising us that we could be even more impressed with his home. The apartment is fully air conditioned, and has an electronic system that could almost be your very own butler. 'Various commands can be logically grouped,' Derk explains. 'A more complicated one is: Close the sunscreens when the light intensity is high and the inside temperature is at the desired value, unless the wind is too strong...' In a word: unique.

✤ 1 Owen Street is on the market for £3,950,000 with Foxtons; 020 7871 9800; foxtons.co.uk

To the best of my knowledge, two whole floors with 360 degree views over London in this price range is unique

Terrace
By moving the chairs, you can catch the sun from morning until evening

Reception room
The soft tones relate to both a European and Asian influence

LUXE LIVING

The command system can be controlled from anywhere in the world with an app called Xxter

Ideas to steal

(1)

(1) Louise Body Foxglove Fabric, £55 p/m, John Lewis.
johnlewis.com

(2)

(2) Punched Iron Table lamp, £116, Raft.
51-53 Camden Passage N1 8EA; 020 8208 7174; raftfurniture.co.uk

(3)

(3) Bora Da Square Cushion Willow Reverse, £70, Smug.
13 Camden Passage N1 8EA; 020 7354 0253, ifeelsmug.com

(4) Pucci Rive Droite Velvet chair, 2001, £3,156, Twentytwentyone.
274/275 Upper Street N1 2UA; 020 7288 1996; twentytwentyone.com

(5) Louise Mother of Pearl Inlay Chest of Drawers, £995, Graham and Green.
grahamandgreen co.uk

(4)

(5)

Kitchen
This was the one room where nothing was changed: it was perfect

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Property NEWS

Luxury waterside living

Set in a prime position on a pretty, quiet stretch of the Regent's Canal, Islington Canalside is an elegant building offering that rare opportunity to enjoy the most luxurious living in a highly sought after location. Moments from the City, and conveniently located for some of the capital's most renowned and respected universities, the well appointed apartments at Islington Canalside offer an excellent opportunity to invest in the London residential property market.

Inside, Islington Canalside consists of only 12 luxury residences: four duplexes, six apartments and two superb penthouses. Amenities include bespoke, handmade kitchens; solid balustrading to the penthouses and the canalside duplex terraces; and bathrooms with all the mod-cons. All in all, Islington Canalside offers superb design and spacious accommodation, in luxurious and peaceful surroundings rarely found in this area.

✤ For further details, visit currell.com

MOVERS AND SHAKERS

With one golden couple choosing to ignore the delights of North London (Beckham, what are you doing?), news has reached The Angel resident that Ashton Kutcher and Mila Kunis (OK, not quite as golden as the Beckhams) are looking around the area. The reason for the house hunting is down to Kunis starring in sci-fi movie, Jupiter Ascending, which starts filming in London later this year, with Kutcher keen to ensure the latest Tinseltown couple in the news stay together. Watch this space.

POSITIVE BEGINNINGS

For once it's not just London with good news in the property market: Halifax's latest house price index shows that market activity generally improved in 2012

At a glance

✤ **Who is buying there:** The road is popular with young families, downsizers and upsizers alike, as well as many young professionals and city workers.

✤ **Typical style and price:** In general, accommodation is spread over three floors in the houses on Ripplevale Grove, with front and back gardens. Rear, basement and attic conversions are also popular on the road to provide further living space and the majority of houses have both front and back gardens. On average, a two bedroom apartment would reach about £750,000 whereas houses vary from £1.2 million to £4 million.

Street of the month

RIPPLEVALE GROVE

Before 1921, Ripplevale Grove was named Albion Grove. However, to avoid confusion with Albion Grove in Stoke Newington, the street was renamed Ripplevale Grove, in memory of Sir John French, Earl Of Ypres, born in Ripple Vale, Kent, who was a leading figure in the First World War.

It is undoubtedly one of the nicest roads in Barnsbury that people flock to. The road benefits from Grade II listed houses within a Conservation Area in prime Barnsbury, there is restricted access to traffic and the road is one way making it unusually quiet. Generally properties consist of low build houses, which is different from the tall, narrow Victorian homes in other parts of the area.

At the top end of the road, there are double fronted houses with a wide front garden, with a collection of houses having a separate studio at the bottom of the back garden that can be used as guest accommodation. Ripplevale Grove also benefits from being close to the bustling centres of Upper Street.

✤ By Jo-Anne Neighbour, Savills Islington, 020 7226 1313

Properties to buy in your neighbourhood

LOCAL LUXE

Contemporary development by Regent's Canal

Lime Wharf, N1, features 28 apartments for sale, comprising six one bedroom apartments, 19 two bedroom apartments and a trio of three bedroom apartments.

✤ Currell, 321 Upper Street N1 2XQ; 020 7226 4200

Magnificent Grade II-listed Georgian house

Situated in the sought after Gibson Square is this property arranged over four floors and directly overlooking the beautifully maintained gardens.

✤ Carlton Estate Agents, 319 Upper Street N1 2XQ; 020 7359 0000

Victorian cottage on Whitmore Road

Located next to the canal and a short walk from Hoxton market and Hoxton Square is this property arranged over two floors and comprising two double bedrooms.

✤ Islington Properties, 111 Upper Street N1 1QN; 020 7812 0480

❖ *Savills Fact No.7*

*On average we have achieved 99% of our stated guide price.**

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GOLD LARGE ESTATE AGENCY of the YEAR 2012 THE SUNDAY TIMES THE TIMES

Lloyd Baker Street, WC1

£1,795,000 Freehold

A charming Regency home which is situated within this highly desirable location. The house has been sympathetically restored to offer a marvellous blend of contemporary styling and period detailing, including solid wooden floors, traditional coving and period fireplaces. The bright and well proportioned accommodation offers a fabulous entertaining space. The garden is a wonderful feature of the property; it is fully enclosed with flower and shrub beds and borders. **EPC:D**

Double reception room
Kitchen
Dining room
Conservatory style family room
3 bedrooms
Rear garden

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Highbury Hill, N5

£2,795,000 Freehold

Situated in this highly sought after residential road in Highbury, a magnificent three window wide semi-detached Victorian Villa. This wonderful building boasts well proportioned rooms with large sash windows and many other character features. Dating back to the 19th century, the house has been well maintained and offers flexible living accommodation arranged over four floors. **EPC:C**

Stunning semi-detached Victorian house
4 reception rooms
Utility room and pantry
6 bedrooms
3 bathrooms
100 ft rear garden

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John Spencer Square, N1 **£585 per week LONG LET**

Set in the heart of Canonbury, we are pleased to offer this newly renovated first floor property with high ceilings and natural light whilst benefiting from modern fittings throughout overlooking stunning communal gardens.
Two Bedrooms / Beautiful Square / Modern Fittings / **EPC:C**

Rufus Street, N1 **£1200 per week LONG LET**

Impressively spacious warehouse conversion seconds from the bars and restaurants of Hoxton Square offering a mixture of original features and modern fittings throughout with access to a private decked terrace.
Two bedrooms / Warehouse Conversion / Roof Terrace / **EPC:E**

Photo: Joe Lord

MY AREA: Jake Perkins

Jake Perkins is a familiar figure around the Angel area. Hotblack Desiato has become central to the property market in this area, and everything has been overseen by this issue's agent in focus – and he knows his local stuff. 'I was born and bred in Canonbury a mere 41 years ago,' he smiles whilst being photographed in said area. 'I attended local schools and now I work on Upper Street. I love that there are still so many independent retailers and people with local expertise around here.'

The Angel Resident is talking to someone with exactly that. Jake enthusiastically recounts how great it was to be in the area last summer during the Olympics – and is one of the few agents to actually say they were busy during the period – and the diversity that the greatest show on earth celebrated is something Angel locals know only too well. 'Each area has its own micro-climate,' Jake considers. 'Despite being so close to each other, Angel has a very different feel from, say, Finsbury or Hoxton. This diversity is one of the things I love about London.' Is there something in particular that draws people to this area? 'People come to Angel for the atmosphere and energy here,' he replies.

> People come to the Angel area for the atmosphere and energy to be found here

As Jake goes on later to say, every agent would love to have a crystal ball and see what the future holds, but for the time being things look to be promising in the Angel area. 'We have had a busy start to the year and I can see that continuing throughout 2013.' The Angel Resident is sure we will continue to see a lot more of Jake Perkins around the area.

Insider information

✤ Typical property:
We sell every type of property, but generally I would say that the quality of architecture and 'finish' on properties is continually improving.

✤ Average price:
If I did my maths, it may well sit around £1 million, but in the words of Buzz Lightyear, 'to infinity and beyond'.

✤ Popular parts:
People love to come to Angel to shop and also to sample the increasing variety of restaurants, bars and cafes.

What I love...

What do you like best about Angel?
I love Regent's Canal. I love watching people walking, cycling and talking as they enjoy the tranquillity of being there.

Do you have a favourite road?
Without question, Canonbury Park North where I was born and raised.

What about type of property?
I am a sucker for a solid Canonbury Georgian semi.

Do you have a favourite Angel restaurant?
Arthurs on Kingsland Road for breakfast, lunch at the Pig & Butcher on Theberton Street, and dinner at Morito in Exmouth Market.

Is there a bar or pub that you favour?
We tend to hold our office drinks at Zilouf's on Upper Street. They do a mean cocktail and the wine list is excellent along with the food.

Where can you get the best coffee or tea?
I am not a coffee lover, but frequent cups of tea are an essential part of the Hotblack Desiato day. People often pop in (especially at the Highbury branch) for a cuppa and a chat.

What's your favourite book?
The Stieg Larsson trilogy.

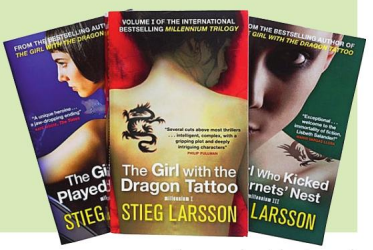
How about favourite film?
It's A Wonderful Life – that's the only time my children leave me in peace.

What has been the best addition to Angel over recent years?
The arrival of the Boris Bikes.

Do you have an Islington 'secret' you'd like to share?
It's quicker on a bike than by car.

Finally, what item would you love to own?
A crystal ball…

✤ Contact Jake Perkins at the Hotblack Desiato Islington office, 314 Upper Street, N1 2XQ; 020 7226 0160; hotblackdesiato.co.uk



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reception room | dining hall | 5 bedrooms | 3 bathrooms | kitchen/breakfast room
utility room | garden | EPC rating F

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MacKenzie Road London N7

reception room | dining room | 2/3 bedrooms | 2 bathrooms | kitchen
balcony | 2 terraces | EPC rating E

A beautifully refurbished upper maisonette offering almost 1,300 sq ft of accommodation arranged over three floors

Guide price **£750,000 share of freehold**

Southgate Road London N1

reception room | dining room | 2 bedrooms | 2 bathrooms | kitchen
roof terrace | EPC rating C

A stunning penthouse apartment with flexible accommodation arranged over two floors and one of the largest roof terraces in the area

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*Cluttons Client Survey 2012

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Highbury Crescent London N5

reception room | 2 bedrooms | bathroom | kitchen/ breakfast room | EPC rating E

A top floor apartment with ornate fireplace, wood flooring and direct views over Highbury Fields

Unfurnished **£650 per week**

Devonia Road London N1

reception room | 2 bedrooms | bathroom | kitchen balcony | EPC rating E

A split-level period conversion arranged over the upper floors in a sought after location in Angel

Furnished **£625 per week**

St. John Street London EC1

reception room with open-plan kitchen | 2 bedrooms bathroom | patio garden | EPC rating D

A recently refurbished maisonette arranged over the ground and lower ground floors of a period building

Furnished **£540 per week**

Highbury Park London N5

reception room | 2 bedrooms | bathroom | kitchen communal garden | EPC rating D

A well cared for flat located on an attractive terrace in central Highbury with a shared roof terrace

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Bishopsgate London EC2M

reception room with open-plan kitchen | bedroom
bathroom | lift | EPC rating D

A fourth floor apartment in an extremely convenient location opposite Liverpool Street station

Furnished **£425 per week**

Matilda Street London N1

reception room | 2 bedrooms | bathroom | kitchen
communal garden | EPC rating C

A ground floor apartment within an attractive period building in a desirable Barnsbury location

Furnished **£415 per week**

Island Apartments London N1

reception room | bedroom | bathroom | kitchen
EPC rating C

A modern apartment adjacent to the Arlington Conservation Area well placed for easy access to the City

Furnished **£400 per week**

Steeple View London N7

reception room with open-plan kitchen | bedroom |
bathroom | lift | terrace | EPC rating B

A top floor apartment within a warehouse style development conveniently located for access to Upper Street

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Whitmore Road, N1 £570,000

Located next to the canal and a short walk from Hoxton market and Hoxton Square is this Victorian cottage arranged over two floors and comprising two double bedrooms and bathroom on the first floor and kitchen/diner with quarry tiled floor and reception room with wood floors leading to private garden on the ground floor. EPC=D

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Chocolate Studios, N1 £500pw

Stunning conversion of a Victorian warehouse to form a large one bedroom apartment on the raised ground floor in a conveniently location a short walk from Old Street tube and The City. With high ceilings, wood floors and large windows. EPC=C

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Liverpool Road

Barnsbury N1

A beautifully presented & newly converted 2 double bedroom garden maisonette with accommodation arranged over the raised & lower ground floors of this elegant Georgian mid terraced house.

EPC rating D

£699,950
leasehold

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Wharf Road

London N1

A stunning 2 bedroom apartment set on the 6th floor of this sought-after landmark development close to Angel. The property fronts the Regent's Canal & the canal basin, & parking is also available to buy on a separate lease.

EPC rating C

£649,950 guide price
leasehold

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Melody Lane

Highbury Fields N5

A stunning end of terrace open plan modern town house set within this award winning gated community opposite Highbury Fields. The property boasts the largest plot on the terrace, with a beautiful cascaded rear garden. The house has been consistently upgraded & boasts walnut flooring, a covered upstairs terrace & bespoke Linn audio system meaning you are wired for sound everywhere including the garden.

EPC rating C

£1,750
per week

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SINCE 1805

Danbury Street

Islington N1

This beautiful 3 bedroom property is set in a very desirable location in the heart of Angel. The property is set over 3 floors & comprises of a spectacular open plan kitchen & dining room which has been refurbished to an incredibly high standard. It also benefits from a private garden that is accessed via the raised ground floor.

EPC rating C

£1,050
per week

LETTINGS
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My Angel

(1)

Ben Warner is founder of award-winning group benugo, whose restaurants include Cellarium Café & Terrace at Westminster Abbey, Court Restaurant at the British Museum, Bishopsgate Kitchen in Shoreditch, a recent deli opening in Covent Garden, and the London Wall Bar & Kitchen at Museum of London. A North Londoner for nigh on three decades now, Ben's benugo journey began in 1998 on St John Street, Clerkenwell.

(2)

Our recent Covent Garden opening has gone… amazingly well. The uniqueness of the area and being located in such a beautiful part of London is ideal. The exciting reaction from locals who already knew us from Clerkenwell has created a great opening. (1)

I have been working with the British Museum… for about eight months. It is very early on in what we want to achieve, so watch this space. It is nice to be working close to where I live as it means I can spend much more time on the site and avoid the issues of travel. It has also become my local café for my family – in fact, I took the boys for breakfast there just this morning and it was great!

(3)

I opened the first benugo on St John Street as it made sense to open within my own community

I have lived in Islington… for six years, and I lived in Clerkenwell for 20 years before that. I wanted to open the first benugo on St John Street because I used to live there and it made sense to open within my own community. (2)

My ambition then was… to offer a community café serving local workers and residents alike and to be amazingly good at what we do and provide.

Looking at our menu… some of our classic sandwiches are the same as 15 years ago as we believe they are timeless and are so popular. There is far more emphasis on healthy eating, so we have adapted to sell amazing salads and quick, healthy snacks. (3)

There are some… very unique and amazing restaurants in Islington. Unfortunately, there has been an invasion of chain rents, pushing out small operations.

What I love best about living in Islington includes… the community, the diversity of the people, the large green open spaces, the architecture and I also love the canal.

When I want to get away from it all… I like to go running along the Regent's Canal.

My Islington secret… is this amazing little deli on Caledonian Road. That's all I am saying!

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